

FINAL



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 2007

**PRESENT:** Joseph Fiala, Vice Chairman; Donna M. Osborne; Thomas S. Clow; A. Craig Slattum

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Fred Ventresco

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Naomi Bolton

**GUESTS:** Greg Begin, Police Chief; Frank Campana; Donald E. Burke; Evelyn M. Connor; Judy Rogers; Tina Pelletier; Robert Richards, Fire Chief; Bill Tiffany; Chip Meany, Code Enforcement Officer; Neal Kurk; Bob Peterson, Weare Police Department; Peter Buono; Jon Osborne; Jim Carney, Weare Police Department; Rob Harvey, Weare Police Department; Ken Cox, Weare Police Department; Steve Najjar; Richard Butt; Jonathan Dowst, Finance Committee; Brenda Lashway, Finance Committee; Christine Hague, Librarian; David Hunt, Finance Committee; Jerry Little, Finance Committee; Will Ottery, Finance Committee; Matt Esenwine, Finance Committee.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman Fiala called this meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Vice Chairman Fiala asked all those present to stand for the pledge of allegiance and after to continue to stand for a moment of silence in honor of Martin Luther King.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS: The Weare Board of Selectmen will hold three public hearings on Monday, January 15, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM for the purpose of hearing public testimony and comment on:**

- 1. The Proposed 2007 Annual Operating Budget**
- 2. Increasing the Transfer Station fees**
- 3. Proposed Police Officers contract between the Town and the Police Union**

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that the first public hearing to be discussed this evening was going to be the police contract.

*Proposed Police Officers contract between the Town and the Police Union:* Frank Campana asked for an overview and highlights from January 11, 2007 public hearing,

regarding the benefits, salaries, etc. Mr. Campana noted that the current contract follows the guideline of the state police for salaries only.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that he first would like to apologize for not having the first public hearing on a normal night or at a normal time. The biggest item has to do with the health insurance, which states that anyone hired after 4/1/2007 will pay 15% of their own health benefit. There is also a uniform/clothing allowance as follows: Part-time Officers: \$200; Full-time Officers \$500. There are steps 1-8 based on grade of the officer. The steps are to run similar to State Police. For example, for a Patrol Officer step 1 is \$38,611.30 going to step 8 of \$49,124.35. Union members presently employed will receive 100% of the health insurance. Total cost for this year above and beyond what is in the operating budget is \$42,745.75.

Officer Bob Peterson wanted to point out for clarification; they initially had a 5 step chart which neared the State Police, in which they went without for a year or two. This chart is similar to the State Police, but the numbers are actually less than the State Police.

Selectman Clow stated that this contract would make pay raises retroactive to 10/1/06 to make up what they didn't get last year.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that the cost for 2008 is \$28,487.65. The dry cleaning of the uniforms is covered in the operating budget. The cut off for full time is 32 hours, which is the same as town.

Officer Peterson spoke to school reimbursement/education incentive portion. A lot of the departments pay tuition after the school is done. This leaves the burden on the employee. The purpose was to encourage employees to obtain education and training that will significantly assist them in the performance of their duties. Employees will receive the following incentive amounts based on their attainment of the educational credits in a job related field. The amounts are not cumulative and are as follows: Associate degree - \$500 per year; Bachelor degree - \$1,000 per year; Master of Law degree - \$1,500 per year. The amounts are to be paid at the completion of the course. Officer Peterson stated that the negotiations in his opinion went well between the Town and union. It was one of the fastest and most amiable. No one came to the table looking to cut. They came forward with a conservative baseline contract to work with. Ideally the process would be to retain good longtime employees.

Vice Chairman Fiala agreed with Officer Peterson that the negotiations did go well.

Frank Campana asked is there was anything in the contract, that an officer gets a car to take home or is there any strike clause? Chief Begin responded that there is a no strike and no lockout clause. Mr. Campana is concerned because the Board of Selectmen has approved roughly a 12-13% increase in the Police Department operating budget for this year.

Selectman Clow responded that a good part of that increase is the additional officers that were approved last year are now part of the operating budget.

Mr. Campana stated that he felt 12% is a lot, and it looks like they want to get on par with the State Police, which they are different in his mind.

Vice Chairman Fiala pointed out to Mr. Camapana that the good news is that they voted not to recommend the additional officer.

Officer Peterson responded that it is impossible to compare the two agencies; it is like apples and oranges. Before they got to the table, great care was taken into consideration, calls for service, etc. They did look around the State to see what others are doing only to be able to bring forward an agreeable contract.

Neal Kurk asked what the percentage of increase was per year for officers.

Chief Begin stated that the steps are roughly 3.5%.

Mr. Kurk added so the police are the same as the other town employees.

Selectman Osborne asked about uniforms.

Chief Begin responded that in reality the \$7,000 in the budget, isn't going to come down a lot this year, if it comes down at all. They have to uniform them anyway.

Mr. Campana is concerned about the tuition reimbursement of \$500 and \$1000. He wanted to know if there is anything in the contract that if we are going to foot the bill, are they obligated to stay on proportionately.

Selectman Clow stated that there is no tuition reimbursement it is a step (stipend) once the degree is earned. It is more like an incentive rather than a reimbursement, so that if they leave the town hasn't paid for the education to move on.

Selectman Clow pointed out that the board has given their full unanimous support on this.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Vice Chairman Fiala closed the contract hearing at 6:55 PM.

Proposed 2007 Budget Hearing: Vice Chairman Fiala opened this public hearing at 6:56 PM. Vice Chairman Fiala stated that the first question he has is, which default budget are we going to use? He didn't know if the raises should be included in the default budget or not. He felt that if the raises go into default we would be inviting a default budget. The budget should be made to be passed every year. He is not against the raises personally. He felt it was the wrong way to approach it. He felt it could be done either way and it would be fine. The board agreed at the last meeting to have the raises in the default, but after doing some thinking he is not sure that they should be.

Selectman Slattum stated that our original intention was to put the raise in a warrant article. That can still be done as well.

Selectmen Clow stated that he would vote against that because if it is voted down then the board has no option but to not give the employees a raise. He would be reluctant to use the warrant article for raises.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that he wouldn't support a warrant article. He felt it should be in the operating budget and not the default budget. He is looking at the numbers.

Selectman Slattum stated that he would like to hear from the public comment on this.

Matt Esenwine, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that they met briefly downstairs to discuss the budget and have not made any official votes. One of the main things that concerns them is the suggestion by the BOS that you can include the 3.5% in the default. He's not sure the case. He read the State definition of default and from that he didn't see where they put it in the default.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that it is the board's understanding that if you have a history of doing it and the personnel policy says you can, legally we can.

Mr. Esenwine asked what the personnel policy says.

Fred Ventresco stated that the policy states the annual reviews are done, COLA is also mentioned.

Tina Pelletier read the wording as it appears in the personnel process, which is as follows: "Once an employee is established in a salary range, pay increases will be based on the total amount of money allocated by the Town Meeting to cover pay increases for the budget year. This could be expressed as a percentage of the total wages paid in the prior year or a lump sum. Regardless of what methodology is employed, the dollars so designated will be considered as a pool of money for distribution to employees based on merit and/or cost of living as decided by the merit review board."

Matt Esenwine stated that they are not arguing that the employees should not get it. They are having a hard time reading the definition in the RSA fitting into a default budget.

Jon Dowst, Finance Committee stated that they have not voted on this, but he felt this might be the right thing to do but doing it the wrong way.

Mr. Esenwine stated that whether it is acceptable or allowable is another question, is it really something that should not be done, but you need to give the Towns people the option.

Brenda Lashway stated that you may have a precedent where there are other contracts being voted on separately.

Neal Kurk stated that he is very concerned about process and fairness to the voters, with respect to the police and teachers. They are multiyear, which will appear in the default budget after it is voted in. The process that is used to determine the raise, he doesn't think that is part of the default. He urged the board to put into budget and not the default.

Christine Hague, Librarian stated that it is not quite accurate that the policy and the raises are under the benefit review committee as it was adopted by a public hearing and there were several Board of Selectmen hearings regarding that.

Frank Campana stated that if the board decides not to put the raises in the default, it certainly doesn't mean the employees still can't get raises, there would certainly have to be some shuffling but it could happen.

Selectman Clow stated that it is hard to come up with money after a budget is set. Last year they took \$100,000.00. When they had this discussion about where to put the raises, he was assuming it would be in the budget and not default, but was convinced differently after the following information was given. First, Fred Ventresco's conversation with Department of Revenue (DRA) and he came away with the decision rests with the BOS. Second, there was some minutes from 1/30/2006 where Selectman Kurk stated that every year it was put in the default except for last year. Third, the survey that Chris did for librarians, some do some don't. They didn't just pull it out of the air. There were some reasons behind it. He's not sure if it is true they were included every other year, but last year.

Steve Najjar stated that it is a difficult issue. He wondered if a more simple approach this year or next, that COLA will be included. He suggested that the Town simply adopt the federal COLA each year, by putting something on the ballot, then the discussion wouldn't have to be made each year.

Selectman Clow stated that the social security COLA was 3.3% and the reason for 3.5% was that there was some employees reviews that came out higher than that and didn't want to short change the employees.

Mr. Najjar stated that he is talking about the federal COLA and not the social security COLA. You could come up with a factor to be added to that if the board felt it would be necessary.

Selectman Slattum one of his first remembrances about the raises was the highway had finished the reviews and they had come with a merit of 3.5%. The 3.5% was arrived on because the police did that. He would have to disagree with Mr. Dowst, in his opinion the personnel policy is a contract and you have to abide by the labor law.

Mr. Dowst stated that he respectfully disagreed, the personnel policy gives you the guidelines to work by but it does not mean it is contractual.

Matt Esenwine stated that he would like to follow up on Mr. Najjar's comment, if we get a default he is not saying the employees shouldn't get a raise, they are just joining some of the rest of the world of not getting a pay raise. The board should allow the Town to make that decision. Finding the money in the default would be difficult, it is lean enough already, but if you find the money it is carried it over and you've increased the default of the following year.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that if you get 2, 3 or even more years of default, you end up a long way behind. They weren't included last year, if that means something. The idea of including them this year came up late. He is wondering if we should take them out this year and come up with a way to include them next year.

David Hunt, Finance Committee member asked if a compromise could be made to say if the operating budget fails, would the town vote on allowing a pay raise.

Jerry Little, Finance Committee member stated that he felt it should be in the proposed and not in the default. By putting it in the default is not trusting that the town tax payer to do the right thing. The first paragraph that Ms. Pelletier read is possibly giving the employees false information. The 3.5% is only a “pool of money” for the BOS to divide.

Ms. Pelletier stated that she thought it was put in the default because it is always being said the town's people won't vote for that. She stated that she would like to see more support for the budget and get away from trying to determine what the tax payers will vote for.

Selectmen Clow asked how many proposed and defaults have passed.

Ms. Pelletier responded that in the past 7 years, 6 were default.

Jon Dowst asked if the insurance got moved out of the individual budgets and lumped into one? Did it go up or down?

Ms. Pelletier stated that yes, they have now all been put together into one budget.

Fred Ventresco stated that the health insurance is 8.1% increase and the rest are level funded.

Mr. Dowst stated that he would like to comment that early on conservatively it looks good.

Mr. Esweine asked people to keep in mind, while we are talking about the proposed, both of these budgets are being proposed and we have decide whether we will be accepting either or.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that he felt that the proposed budget is pretty unremarkable. The proposed 3.5% increase in wages and the entire budget appears to be up 3.5%. With the increased costs of health insurance, fuel, etc. 3.5% is very good.

Mr. Dowst asked if the Avitar amount came out of the default budget.

Ms. Pelletier responded, yes.

Brenda Lashway asked about Avitar line to make sure they would be responsible for any errors.

Steve Najjar asked, under the fire dept, he is curious what fire annual dinner and fire food was, and if there was any reimbursement for forest fires.

Bob Richards, Fire Chief responded that the food line covers anything that might have to be bought to feed the firefighters if the incident goes into the dinner hour. The food is distributed by the auxillary at these incidents. The annual dinner is a networking party for the mutual aid Towns through the fire association. Forest fire line is handed by the warden and the number in the budget is 50% of what it costs to do any brush incident.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that one thing the board discussed was whether or not to include new protective clothing in the budget or was a CIP item. It costs usually about \$1,700 per set. In the fire budget, 10 were asked for and they agreed to put 5 sets in an operating budget. There were some encumbered funds for the other five to keep everything on track. The other change is that this year they will be splitting up the heat and electricity between the fire and police. The police will be taking care of electricity and the fire will be taking care of the heat.

Chief Richards was asked to speak about the base station. They have a maintenance contract with R & R Communications and that does the preventive maintenance on all the equipment. Over the last three years the technician from R & R has mentioned that the base station should be replaced. While the discussion was being had the base station went down for about 8 hours and he feels it is time to replace at this time. It is the only base station. The pagers and the voter sites were replaced with a grant that the Town only had to pay 10%. The mobile radios in the trucks and the portables were also replaced 100% through another grant. Chief Richards felt that their communications on that end have been improved, but not the base station.

Frank Campana asked in the overall operating budget, what there is for new personnel, any personnel going from part-time to full-time, anything for vehicles, etc.

The board asked Chip Meany, Building Inspector if he wanted to reply. Mr. Meany stated that he had come forward again this year with a proposal to make his secretary full time by adding the 10 extra hours. The board decided that they would like to wait on this, but he stated that he will be bringing it back next year. There is more than enough work that could be done in those 10 hours. She could help Tina with the web site. She could cross train to help out in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office.

Evelyn Connor stated that her office was cut 10 hours when the change was made in the tax collector's department. Ms. Connor also stated that she felt that the raises need to be guaranteed somewhere and if the default is the only place then it should be in both places.

Frank Campana stated that he appreciates the handouts and he asked about a copy of the State default budget form. Tina Pelletier gave him a copy of the form he was looking for.

The board asked Steve Najjar to speak on the Conservation Commission CIP requests. Steve Najjar stated that the dam project might not be a go this year, so they have decided not to put the warrant article on for the Abijah Bridge Check Dam. As far as the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) goes, they don't feel they are ready to go forward with this.

The commission doesn't have the time to support or sell them for this year, so the decision was to eliminate both the articles.

Selectmen Clow asked if not going ahead with the NRI would hold anything up as it is vital information.

Mr. Najjar responded that currently the town can use the resources that are out there. It is in the statutes that we need to have it, but he feels it bears more discussion before it moves forward, that is his personal opinion. It is a good topic to come discuss at a Conservation Commission meeting.

Matt Esenwine asked about the \$80,000 conservation article.

Mr. Najjar responded that the Open Space Committee has signed a purchase and sales agreement with a landowner on Tiffany hill Road. He is selling 64 acres. The sales price is over \$300,000. There are some other offsets. This money is already sitting in the Town Forest account to spend. It was voted on a few years ago and they didn't realize it was a one time vote. This property abuts the Chevey Hill Forest and this would be added to it.

Jon Dowst had a question on the revenue side. His question was that on the motor vehicles revenue we seem to do the state work and we don't seem to see any increase in the fees.

Evelyn Connor responded that before they can do that we need a firewall. They did begin the motor vehicle process three years ago with the state which is slow. The passports have increased. They still haven't gotten the go ahead with the State.

Evelyn Connor asked about the election wages. There is a \$288 difference, which is the 3.5% increase for the workers. She stated that the only election is the March Town meeting and she was wondering if they can increase at the March election. Board approved by consensus.

Selectman Clow had a question under the police department special details line item. On the revenue side we put \$19,000 and on the expense side only \$200. He was wondering if that should be a realistic figure and not \$200. He also wondered if the revolving fund passes will it lower the bottom line of the budget by that much.

Chief Begin suggested that last year they expended \$30,000 and that will probably be a more realistic number.

Selectman Clow felt it would be cleaner to set it up like the transfer station revolving fund article with the phrase that if this passes the budget would be decreased by this amount.

The board decided to leave the article as it is written.



With no further comments or questions, Vice Chairman Fiala closed the public hearing at 8:45 PM.

Vice Chairman Fiala moved that the Board of Selectmen recommend a proposed budget of \$4,345,078 and a default budget of \$4,254,622 for 2007 and bring those numbers fourth to the deliberative session; Selectmen Slattum seconded the motion, all in favor.

CIP ARTICLE: Selectmen Clow stated that he would like to see the computer fund article increased especially in light of Ms. Connors previous discussion. He would like to see it increased \$10,000 to \$15,000. Selectman Osborne agreed.

Steve Najjar asked how the Conservation Commission comes into play of the overall computer system especially with regard to the NRI project. Is where the funds should be coming from for the computer, plotter and software associated with the project? Mr. Najjar would like to see it put in there if possible.

Vice Chairman Fiala suggested that Mr. Najjar put something together for next year. His first thought was that the fund was established for the upgrade to the current system in this building and not new computers, plotters, etc.

Selectmen Clow stated that we would need to find the original wording of the article as it passed to see if this type of request could fall under it.

Selectmen Slattum stated that going through the draft town warrant and tonight handouts, his draft does not have the computer fund in it.

Fred Ventresco responded that the first copy of the draft warrant didn't have it because the board wasn't going to take anything from taxation. But after doing some further research there appeared to be not enough money in the current capital reserve to fund it without taxation.

Richard Butt stated that he noticed on some of the articles the CIP subcommittee recommendation shows and some it doesn't. He felt it should be consistent on all. The Board stated that any recommendations by the CIP subcommittee can be added to the mailer not the ballot. Mr. Butt then asked about the forestry vehicle CIP. The CIP subcommittee felt it should be a separate article even though it won't have any impact on the tax rate because there are funds there to cover the cost. The reasoning for the article is that this vehicle came to the department by a donation, which supposedly didn't cost the Town money and now a replacement is needed that is going to cost taxpayers money, so the Town needs to have the opportunity to vote on that. It has been done this way with any new piece of equipment for a rotation it needs to be consistent. Once the Town approves the replacement then it accepts it as part of the department's rotation.

Selectmen Clow stated that he asked Paul Morin, Chairman of the CIP Subcommittee and Chairman of the Planning Board last Thursday night. Mr. Morin stated that the position of the subcommittee has always been that the original vehicle was donation the method that has been followed is to put it on the ballot.

Mr. Butt then asked about not recommending the police officers? His concern is that they are making a decision on a dollar amount that possibly might be approved by the Town. Public safety is the number one priority on the CIP program. He wanted to know the justification for decision made to not recommend.

Vice Chairman Fiala responded that his overriding issue was to get the police contract passed and he felt that asking for another officer at the same time might be asking for too much. He personally felt we should ask for one of those things. The board felt that if the voters want it, they have the right to vote on it.

Mr. Butt stated that he was concerned that the recommendation and article is coming for all the wrong reasons.

Vice Chairman Fiala stated that he will bring forward some concrete reasons for the deliberative session.

Selectmen Clow moved to add \$5,000 more to the computer system fund, Selectman Osborne seconded the motion. Discussion: Vice Chairman Fiala commented that the only concern doing this is that the Board is changing the recommendation of the CIP subcommittee without asking them. Vote: Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

HIGHWAY COMMUNICATIONS: This article would be to create a new capital reserve fund for the Highway Department Communications. The Fire Department and Police Department already have separate communication funds. Vice Chairman Fiala moved to recommend this warrant article; Selectman Clow seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

FORESTRY VEHICLE: The board felt that this is an article that needs to be added to allow the purchase of a replacement forestry vehicle. After all the discussion and reasoning from the CIP subcommittee and in an effort to be consistent the board all agreed to add an article. Chief Richards was present and was upset for a couple of reasons. First he is not sure where the \$60,000 figure came from. He claimed that in all his discussions with the CIP subcommittee the top dollar, brand new, complete, ready to use was \$51,000. He felt that everyone else seems to know what he needs. He stated that he would be happy to get this used one that was brought to the board's attention last week. Now the board is having him wait until Town meeting before he can do anything. During the wait the used one that he found may be gone. The board responded that it may also still be there as well. Vice Chairman Fiala moved to add the article to allow up to \$60,000 to be spent from the Fire & Rescue Vehicle fund for a replacement forestry vehicle and \$0 raised by taxation; Selectman Clow seconded motion. Vote: 3 in favor (Slattum, Clow and Fiala) and 1 abstained (Osborne).

The board then felt that a motion would be proper to rescind their previous vote to allow the used one to be purchased. Mr. Ventresco added that if the board doesn't rescind the vote and the Town doesn't approve it they could still get the used one. The board felt that if Town meeting says no the vehicle doesn't get purchased this year. Vice Chairman Fiala then moved to rescind the previous authorization given to spend up to \$35,000 for a

used forestry vehicle; Selectmen Slattum seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

LIBRARY CONSULTANT: This warrant article would create a new capital reserve fund to assist the library and volunteers through the library development process to come up with a building plan. Christine Hague wanted to make sure it is worded clearly for the intent. The intent is to be able to have a consultant come in; possibly do a mailer to get volunteers and the Town's input to see where the Town would go. The board felt that the wording of "development process" would cover all the concerns.

REVOLVING FUND – RECYCLING: This warrant article is asking the voters to approve a revolving fund based on the recycling items to be spent on the costs associated with recycling. The governing body will be ones to allow the spending. Fred Ventresco wanted to clarify the last sentence. The intent of this article is that if this passes the transfer station budget would be reduced by \$39,000. Vice Chairman Fiala stated that he would like to get rid of the last sentence and explain it at the deliberative session. Selectman Clow thought that the sentence should be left because it is different from the police details.

HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT: This article is the same article that goes on the warrant every year for road reconstruction projects. This year the amount was raised a little to cover the increased costs in pavement, fuel, etc. Steve Najjar stated that he would like to see the Selectmen add something so that we aren't inadvertently paving gravel roads. Last year the Town paved Buckley Road, which was gravel, so not the landowner of a 50+ acres parcel will be able to have more lots than if the road stayed gravel, because the lot size on gravel roads are different than on paved roads.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY: This article is to cover the cost associated with having a Town building needs assessment done to assess the current condition of Town facilities. This study would also see how the buildings are suiting the needs of the community and to anticipate and plan for the future needs of Town. The board suggested that the words "2 year non-lapsing" be added and also the last sentence about the CIP recommendation needs to be removed.

CIRCUIT RIDER: This is an article to acquire the services of a part time professional planner to assist the Planning Board, one day a week and at the meetings. The proposal is for one year at a cost of \$1,800 per month. The professional will review all the current ordinances, help to draft new changes, review plans and make recommendations to the planning board. The board suggested that the words "this fiscal year, 2007" be replaced with the words "one year".

POLICE CONTRACT: This article was the subject of the earlier public hearing. Selectmen Clow asked if this is the order of articles on the warrant. Mr. Ventresco explained that he typically followed the previous few years, but the order is really up to the Board. Chief Begin asked if approving this contract approves the contract for 2008 as well. Or would the amount still have to go on the warrant. The board felt that in the teacher contracts it is voted on the first year and then it becomes part of the budget until it

is time to renegotiate again. The board asked Mr. Ventresco to confirm this with the attorney.

ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER: This warrant article is for the purpose of adding one full time officer for the sum of \$52,000. This fee would cover the salary, benefits, uniforms, equipment and training for 9 months. The Board of Selectmen decided to not recommend this article.

ADDITIONAL EMT'S: This article is for the purpose of hiring two per diem EMT's to staff the ambulance 8 hours a day 7 days a week from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> for the cost of \$49,850. Selectman Osborne asked why the time frame? Chief Richards responded the Board of Firewards the time frame of six months to try it out and see how it works out.

CABLE FRANCHISE FEES: This article is to put \$10,000 from cable franchise fees into the Community Access TV Equipment Fund. This item was not recommended by the CIP subcommittee because there was not enough information provided to make a decision. Mr. Ventresco indicated that he thought this article was one that was automatically put on each year and didn't realize it was a CIP item.

CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS: This article is one that gets put one each year for the Cemetery Trustees to be able to spend \$15,000 from cy pres money for perpetual care. This article is in addition to the CIP because these funds can only be spent inside the cemetery and not for construction.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY: This is the article that the Conservation Commission would like removed from the warrant.

ABIJAH BRIDGE CHECK DAM: This article was the other article that the Conservation Commission wants to remove from the warrant.

CONSERVATION FUND: This article is requesting \$80,000 be taken from the Town Forest account and used in combination with the Conservation Fund to purchase 64 acres on Tiffany Hill Road.

LICENSED FORESTER: This article is to request \$15,000 to be taken from the Town Forest Account to secure the contracted serviced of a NH licensed forester. Steve Najjar stated that this article is clearly what it says. They have an active plan but it has been a little idle since Bobby Reeve left. Bob Todd used to do it, but he is only interested in surveying now and they will be looking to get someone. When the town forest is harvested there is revenue back into the Town. This is a catch up year and it is the intent that this would become an article every year. The management plans haven't been kept up on. The forest land will need to be looked at.

FIREWORKS MONEY: This article is one that is on every year requesting \$6,000 be spent for fireworks at the annual Patriotic Celebration.

**MODIFY THE ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS:** This warrant article is asking to approve the modification of the existing elderly exemptions and income limits. It is more or less doubling the existing elderly exemption amounts and also raising the income limits. The proposed elderly exemptions are as follows: \$35,000 to \$70,000; \$45,000 to \$90,000 and \$250,000 to \$300,000. The proposed income limits are as follows: \$30,000 to \$33,000; \$40,000 to \$44,000 and \$75,000 to \$80,000.

**MODIFY THE DISABLED EXEMPTIONS:** This warrant article is asking to approve the modification of the existing disabled exemptions and income limits. The proposed disabled exemption would go from \$30,000 to \$60,000 and the income limits would be changed to: \$10,000 to \$13,000; \$12,000 to \$20,400 and \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Fred Ventresco asked the board if they were going to go over the two petition articles. The board stated that they only have to make a recommendation if there is money attached to the article.

Vice Chairman Fiala moved to recommend the above proposed articles and any that were amended this evening as above, be posted for the first session of Town meeting (the deliberative session) that is schedule for Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 9 AM, Selectman Slattum seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Vice Chairman Fiala closed the pubic hearing at 10:10 PM.

**Increasing the Transfer Station fees:** Jon Osborne, Transfer Station supervisor was present and requested that this public hearing be continued to next week, due to the fact that Carl Knapp, Public Works Director was not available. Vice Chairman Fiala responded that this public hearing will be continued to Monday, January 22, 2007.

### **III. MANIFESTS:**

Vice Chairman Fiala moved, Selectman Osborne seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated January 18, 2007. Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Accounts payable	\$ 32,487.50
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$ 36,211.71</u> (includes Credit Union and Taxes and Monthly Fire)
	\$ 68,699.21

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to come before the board, Vice Chairman Fiala moved to adjourn at 10:15 PM, Selectman Osborne seconded the motion. Vote: 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi L. Bolton  
Recording Secretary